

as osteoporosis, heart disease, and arthritis, and is highly recommended to improve the overall quality of life at any age. On May 26, the Senior Friends Chapter at Deering Hospital will host activities such as fitness walks, exercise demonstrations, health screenings, and health information workshops to educate Miami's seniors about the many benefits of fitness and to encourage their participation in a more active lifestyle.

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to The Senior Friends Chapter for their focus on senior's health.

DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY CENTER TO BE DISESTABLISHED

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 1999

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that the Defense Industrial Supply Center (DISC) in my district will be disestablished in a fitting ceremony on July 2, 1999. In accordance with the Base Realignment and Closure Commission, DISC and its hard working employees will continue their mission as a part of a new organization, the Defense Supply Center Philadelphia.

Established as a field activity of the Defense Logistics Agency on April 1, 1962, DISC has for over three decades combined professional personnel talent with modern management techniques to provide its military customers throughout the world with responsive logistic support.

DISC items were used by all the services in support of their multimillion dollar weapon systems, such as, the Trident, Patriot and Minuteman III missiles; the Black Hawk and Apache helicopters; the Abrams tank; the Eagle, Hornet and Harrier aircraft; the *Ohio* and *Los Angeles* Class submarines; the AEGIS Class cruisers; and the *Nimitz* Class aircraft carriers, as well as certain NASA space programs. In addition to supplying vital parts to our Armed Forces, DISC also provided emergency support in times of disaster.

From its headquarters in Northeast Philadelphia, DISC military and civilian personnel maintained a constant flow of critical items 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to satisfy the supply needs of the military services. The Center was responsible for the wholesale support of industrial and commercial type items to the military services. These items included plumbing, wood products, material handling and facilities maintenance supplies, marine safety and fire fighting equipment, food service equipment, imaging and information supplies, as well as bearings, rope, cable and fittings, fasteners, hardware, packing and gasket materials, springs and rings, metal bars, sheets and shapes, electrical wire and cable, as well as certain ores, minerals and precious metals.

Active in Philadelphia community affairs, DISC employees participated in numerous civic activities in and around the Delaware Valley. Many employees have earned wide recognition for their volunteer work in personal one-to-one relationships with the young, the old, and the needy through such programs as Project Reachout and Project Give. The employees are also key members and leaders in a host of other community groups and asso-

ciations, such as Boy and Girl Scouts; Little League; United Way; and in church, veterans and civic organizations where they participate in many activities of benefit to the greater Philadelphia area.

DISC has earned the privilege to fly the Minuteman flag each year of its existence through U.S. Saving Bonds participation. This is a unique record unequaled by any other major Federal Activity.

As the Defense Industrial Supply Center Colors are lowered for the last time, I personally extend my sincere praise and appreciation to Nicholas J. Ranalli, DISC's Administrator, and to all military and civilian employees, past and present, who have been providing dedicated service to our military personnel around the world since 1962.

The people of Philadelphia and the Nation can take justifiable pride in a fine job well done and to look forward to the continuation of DISC's vital role in the defense efforts of our country when the mission of the Defense Industrial Supply Center conjoins its operation with the Defense Supply Center Philadelphia.

TRIBUTE TO BEN TOM ROBERTS

HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 1999

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a friend and an important constituent from the First District of Alabama who will be in my office Thursday on the occasion of his 50th birthday.

Ben Tom Roberts is the current president of the Alabama Association of Realtors (AAR). In addition, he is a principle in Roberts Brothers, Inc., a family-owned business that for more than 53 years has been serving the real estate needs of generations of south Alabamians.

Ben Tom's motivation and inherent knowledge of the real estate industry has propelled him to one of the foremost leaders in his field. Not only is he co-owner of Mobile's largest real estate firm, he has also served as president of the Mobile Area Association of Realtors as well as state president of the Real Estate Securities and Syndication Institute. Clearly, real estate is in Ben Tom's blood and the real estate industry in Alabama is truly benefitting from his leadership, as well as his considerable experiences.

In addition to Ben Tom's service to the industry, he is actively involved in the life of our community. From the American Cancer Society to the United Way, Ben Tom's philanthropy has truly spanned the alphabet. It is fair to say he has given generously of his time and talents in the service of his fellow man.

In recent years, Ben Tom has held numerous leadership posts, serving as vice chairman of the Mobile Chamber of Commerce and past president of the Country Club of Mobile, the Chandler YMCA and the Metropolitan YMCA. In addition, he serves on many boards, including Southtrust Bank, the Old Overton Club and the Alabama Golf Association.

Ben Tom, and his lovely wife Gale, are active members of St. Ignatius Catholic Church in Mobile, where he is serving as chairman of the Stephen Ministries. Mr. Speaker, as 50 candles light Ben Tom's birthday cake, I ask

you to join me in congratulating him on his outstanding achievements in the real estate arena, and his support of charitable causes and community organizations in Mobile and throughout the state of Alabama.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING STANDARDIZATION ACT

HON. JAMES V. HANSEN

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 1999

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure that I am introducing the Public Hearing Standardization Act of 1999. This Act is needed so that the general public can meaningfully contribute to the process used by federal agencies to obtain public input. Currently, public hearings provide a process to the general public so that their comments and input can become part of the official record. However, because many of the public's questions remain unanswered by federal agencies, this process has been disappointing for many who attend these hearings. Public hearings should also provide a forum for the public to ask questions of the federal agencies and for the public to receive from the federal agencies meaningful responses to questions as part of the official record.

Presently, public hearings conducted by federal agencies do not have any standard format nor parameters as to how they are conducted. As a result, federal agencies have total discretion in setting rules for public hearings. Unfortunately, these rules frequently do not require the federal agencies to respond to legitimate questions asked by the public. This bill intends, therefore, to standardize the procedures used by federal agencies for public hearings so that the public understands the rules in conducting such public hearings and can respond appropriately. It will also give the public a chance to ask relevant questions and also a reasonable expectation of receiving an honest answer from federal agencies.

This is a long-overdue bill which will give the public beneficial information in regard to federal agency land management. The public deserves to have questions answered by federal agencies in a public forum and this bill, among other things, will make sure that the public has this chance. I urge all my colleagues to support and co-sponsor the Public Hearing Standardization Act of 1999.

HONORING THE VICTORIA HIGH SCHOOL VICTORIADORES, VIC- TORIA, TX

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 1999

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay honor to the best drill team in the nation and in the world: the Victoria High School Victoriadores from Victoria, Texas. Under the exemplary leadership of D.J. Jaynes, Victoriadore Director, assisted by Laura Klimist, Choreographer, this outstanding group of ladies and gentlemen won many national honors at the marching Auxiliaries/Seaworld